

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system comprising

A cup having

A bottom wall;

A front, first and second sidewalls,

A sealing rim on said front wall and extending at least partially along said first and second sidewalls for maintaining a watertight seal between said sealing rim and a user's face when said cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position to allow pouring of a liquid held in the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities.

2. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein said sidewalls have no openings therein.

3. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein the width of said first and second sidewalls varies from maximum width where said sidewalls join said front wall to a minimum width where said sidewalls join one another.

4. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein said sealing rim extends curving outwardly and downwardly away from said cup so as to maintain a sealing surface between said sealing rim and a user's face when said cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position to allow pouring of a liquid held in the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities.

5. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein said sealing rim further includes an area of the sealing rim adapted to mate with a user's facial structure to prevent further rotation of said cup on the user's face beyond a selected angle so as to maintain a sealing surface between said sealing rim and a user's face when said cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position to allow pouring of a liquid held in the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities.

6. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein the width of said first and second sidewalls varies so that said sealing rim extending at least partially along said first and second sidewalls can maintain a watertight seal between said sealing rim and a user's face when said cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position to allow pouring of a liquid held in the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities.

7. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 wherein the width of said sidewalls varies in a manner that creates a horizontal side wall as the cup is rotated to the generally horizontal position, maintaining a cavity for the liquid as the original two sidewalls no longer create a cavity for holding the liquid.

8. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 further comprising a first and second protuberance on the interior side of said first and second sidewalls respectively, adapted to allow a user to select one of said protuberances to press

against and close off a user's nostril allowing liquid held in the cup to flow through only the unclosed nostril into the nasal cavities.

9. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 further comprising means attached to said cup for vibrating a fluid held in the interior of said cup.

10. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 9 wherein said vibrating means is integrally formed on said bottom wall of the cup.

11. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 9 wherein said vibrating means is releasably attached to said bottom wall of the cup.

12. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 9 wherein said vibrating means is releasably attached to said bottom wall of the cup comprises an electric vibrating motor assembly.

13. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 further comprising means for heating a liquid held in said cup.

14. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 13 wherein said heating means further comprises:

an electric heating element adapted for insertion into the interior of said cup and submersion in the liquid held in said cup.

15. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 1 further comprising:

a splash barrier, partially covering the mouth of said cup, for protecting a user's facial area from spillage of liquid held contained in said cup when said cup is rotated too rapidly.

16. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system comprising:

a cup, generally triangular in cross-section for ease in grasping by a user's hand, having:

a bottom wall;

a front, first and second sidewalls, said sidewalls having no openings therein and the width of said first and second sidewalls varying from a maximum width where said sidewalls join said front wall to a minimum width where said sidewalls join one another, the varying width of said sidewalls creating a horizontal sidewall as the cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position for maintaining a cavity to contain the liquid held in the cup as the original first and second sidewalls no longer create a cavity for holding the liquid;

a sealing rim on said front wall and extending at least partially along said first and second sidewalls, said sealing rim including an area adapted to mate with a user's facial structure to prevent further rotation of said cup on the user's face beyond a selected angle

so as to maintain a sealing surface between said sealing rim and a user's face when said cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position to allow pouring of a liquid held in the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities;

a first and second protuberance on the interior side of said first and second sidewalls respectively, adapted to allow a user to select one of said protuberances to press against and close off a user's nostril allowing liquid held in the cup to flow through only the unclosed nostril into the nasal cavities.

17. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 16 further comprising means attached to said cup for vibrating a fluid held in the interior of said cup.

18. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 17 wherein said vibrating means is integrally formed on said bottom wall of the cup.

19. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 17 wherein said vibrating means is releasably attached to said bottom wall of the cup.

20. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 17 wherein said vibrating means is releasably attached to said bottom wall of the cup comprises an electric vibrating motor assembly.

21. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 16 further comprising means for vibrating a fluid held in the interior of said cup.

22. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 21 wherein said vibrating means is a self-contained electric vibrating motor assembly designed for insertion into the interior of said cup and at least partial submersion into the liquid contained therein.

23. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 16 further comprising means for heating a liquid held in said cup.

24. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 20 wherein said heating means further comprises:

an electric heating element adapted for insertion into the interior of said cup and submersion in the liquid held in said cup.

25. A nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleansing system as in claim 20 further comprising:

a splash barrier, partially covering the mouth of said cup, for protecting a user's facial area from spillage of liquid held contained in said cup when said cup is rotated too rapidly.

26. A method for nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleaning of a user's nasal and sinus cavities with a liquid comprising a saline solution, a special cleansing formula, or a medicinal fluid, comprising the steps of:

placing the liquid in a cup having a sealing rim for maintaining a watertight seal against a user's face when the cup is rotated from a generally upright position to a generally horizontal position;

inserting the user's nose into the solution in the cup while holding the cup in a generally vertical orientation;

rotating the cup from a generally vertical orientation to a generally horizontal orientation while maintaining a watertight seal between the sealing rim of the cup and the user's face; and,

inhaling the solution from the cup into the user's nasal and sinus cavities.

27. A method for nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleaning of a user's nasal and sinus cavities with a liquid, as in claim 26, further including the step of:

holding the liquid in the user's nasal and sinus cavities for a desired period of time.

28. A method for nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleaning of a user's nasal and sinus cavities with a liquid, as in claim 26, further including the step of:

expelling the liquid held in the user's nasal and sinus cavities by the user exhaling through his nose.

29. A method for nasal-nasopharyngeal irrigating and cleaning of a user's nasal and sinus cavities with a liquid, as in claim 26, further including the step of:

draining the liquid held in the user's nasal and sinus cavities by tilting the user's head to allow gravity to cause the liquid to drain out.